DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RLS DATE 10/25/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. B☐
EXPOSURE EXEMPTION ☐
DENIAL SITE☐ ☐
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTION

Department of State TELEGRAM

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-00 ARA-15 EUR-12 NEA-07 IO-15 ADS-00 SIG-03
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 HA-05
SS-15 NSC-05 SY-05 USSS-00 /106 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:MR
APPROVED BY AF/P:FDCOOK
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
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AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMCONSUL BUKAVU
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
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AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT LO
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION USNATO
USICA WASHDC
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MADRID

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FROM AF/P

E.O. 12065:N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, AUGUST 8, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT OF AFRICA PORTIONS, FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY, OFFICIAL VERSION WILL FOLLOW:

TODAY THE SPOKESMAN WAS TOM RESTON.

Q: THE UPI REPORTED YESTERDAY THAT A TEAM OF INVESTIGATORS

FROM FIVE BLACK AFRICAN NATIONS CONFIRMED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S REPORT OF ATROCITIES IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE AND NOTED FROM WITNESSES THAT EMPEROR BOKASSA TOOK HIS WALKING STICK AND POKED OUT THE EYES OF A NINE-YEAR-OLD BOY AND PERSONALLY SHOT ANOTHER BOY IN THE HEAD AND WAS A PARTICIPANT IN THE TORTURE, BEATING, SUFFOCATION AND SHOOTING OF A HUNDRED SCHOOL-CHILDREN. I WAS WONDERING: COULD YOU EXPLAIN WHY THERE'S BEEN SUCH A SILENCE FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THESE ATROCIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS?

A: FIRST OF ALL, THE STATE DEPARTMENT, OF COURSE, AS YOU'RE

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WELL AWARE, HAS NOT BEEN SILENT ON THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE.

AND, SECOND OF ALL, AS TO WHY WE HAVE BEEN SILENT ABOUT THE PARTICULAR REPORT HAVING TO DO WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THAT COUNTRY, THE LAST TIME I CHECKED ON THAT -- WHICH WAS A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO -- WE STILL WERE NOT IN RECEIPT OF THE REPORT AND WE WANTED TO GET THE REPORT AND READ IT BEFORE WE SAID ANYTHING. I WILL UNDERTAKE TO TAKE YOUR QUESTION TO SEE WHETHER WE HAVE AN ANALYSIS OR SOMETHING WHICH WE WISH TO SAY ABOUT THE FINDINGS OF THE REPORT.

Q: -- THE NEW YORK TIMES SAYS THAT PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON TO THE WHITE HOUSE WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN GUINEA. I HAVE BEFORE ME A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUINEA AND NICARAGUA BASED ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THIS YEAR. IN EACH OF THE 25 CATEGORIES, GUINEA IS SHOWN AS BEING VASTLY WORSE THAN SOMOZA'S NICARAGUA IN ITS RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. NOW, SINCE SOMOZA WAS NOT EVEN ACCEPTABLE TO PRESIDENT CARTER AS A HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, MUCH LESS A VISITOR TO THE WHITE HOUSE,

HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE ACCEPTANCE OF PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE?

A: I DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN IT SINCE THE TWO THINGS DON'T HAVE ANY RELEVANCE TO EACH OTHER.

Q: WAS SEKOU TOURE INVITED TO THIS COUNTRY OR DID HE COME ON HIS OWN?

A: I BELIEVE IN FACT THE PRESIDENT IS HERE ON A PRIVATE VISIT, AND I DON'T KNOW THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS INVITATION TO THE WHITE HOUSE. OBVIOUSLY, THAT IS A QUESTION WHICH SHOULD BE ADDRESSED OVER THERE AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q: WILL THE SECRETARY SEE HIM?

A: NOW, VANCE IS GOING TO SEE HIM THIS AFTERNOON AT 3:30 HERE.

Q: ALL RIGHT. AT WHOSE INITIATIVE?

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A: I WILL TRY TO FIND OUT AT WHOSE INITIATIVE THAT MEETING WAS SET UP. I WOULD POINT OUT THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT HE'S BEEN IN WASHINGTON SINCE 1962.

FOR DETAILS ON HIS SCHEDULE OTHER THAN THE TWO MEETINGS WHICH I HAVE JUST REFERRED TO WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE, I SUGGEST THAT YOU ASK THE GUINEAN EMBASSY. THEIR NUMBER IS HUDSON 3-9420. I WILL TAKE YOUR QUESTION AS TO HOW THE MEETING AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS SET UP.

Q: EVEN THOUGH IT'S A PRIVATE VISIT, DO WE PROVIDE SECRET SERV'CE OR STATE DEPARTMENT SECURITY PROTECTION IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES? IN OTHER WORDS, DOES THE PRIVATE VISIT BECOME PART OF THE BURDEN OF THE U.S. TAXPAYER?

A: THERE ARE PROVISIONS IN LAWS PASSED BY THE CONGRESS FOR DECLARING CERTAIN DIGNITARIES TO BE WITHIN A CATEGORY WHICH WOULD ENABLE US TO PROVIDE SECURITY PROTECTION FOR THEM.

I'M TOLD PRESIDENT TOURE HAS BEEN SO DESIGNATED. SO, YES, WE WILL BE PROVIDING SECURITY PROTECTION FOR HIM.

Q: ON TOURING, A CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER, A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO, ON A LONG TAKEOUT ON GUINEA, REPORTED THAT SEVERAL FORMER CABINET OFFICERS HAVE BEEN EXECUTED -- ALSO REPORTED SOME IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION RECENTLY.

EVEN THOUGHT IT'S A PRIVATE VISIT, DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THE SECRETARY WILL EXPLORE WITH THE PRESIDENT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN GUINEA AND DO YOU HAVE ANY ASSESSMENT AS TO W;ETHER -- THE STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUINEA? HAS THERE BEEN AN UPTURN OR W;AT AT THIS POINT?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THEY'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT THAT THI AFTERNOON. NOW, I DON'T HAVE ANY ASSESSMENT TO OFFER YOU AT THE MOMENT ON THAT QUESTION.

Q: IS THERE CONCERN -- BECAUSE YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT THE CAE, FOR INSTANCE -- IS THERE CONCERN IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN GUINEA?

A: SINCE THE REPORT? LET ME SEE IF I CAN GET YOU THE MOST

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CURRENT ASSESSMENT THAT WE HAVE ON THE SUBJECT.

Q: ONE OF THE MORE PROMINENT POLITICAL PRISONERS THAT MR. CARTER'S GUEST WAS IN HIS CONTROL IS THE FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, DIALLO TELLI. AND IN YOUR ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT IT WAS SIMPLY SAID THAT MR. TOURE WOULD NOT SAY WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO MR. TELLI.

DO YOU THINK THAT THE OCCASION MIGHT BE USED OF THIS VISIT WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO ASCERTAIN WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THIS FORMER PROMINENT AFRICAN --

A: YES. AS I SAID IN ANSWER TO A PREVIOUS QUESTION, I REALLY DON'T KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO GET YOU A READOUT OF WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE MEETING THIS AFTERNOON. LATER ON THIS AFTERNOON I WILL TRY TO GET THAT FOR YOU.

Q: DO YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE AN UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA?

Q: I'D LIKE TO STAY ON SEKOU TOURE. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW, WHEN A FOREIGN HEAD OF STATE VISITS HERE AND IS GIVEN SECRET SERVICE PROTECTION, RESIDES IN BLAIR HOUSE, HAS MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE, AND HAS SECRET SERVICE PROTECTION, HOW THAT QUALIFIES AS A PRIVATE VISIT.

A: THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION. LET ME SEE IF I CAN GET A RATIONAL WATERSHED KIND OF TEST. NOW, THERE WAS A QUESTION ABOUT EQUATORIAL GUINEA. I REALLY DON'T HAVE VERY MUCH. WE HAVE SEEN PRESS REPORTS THAT THERE IS HEAVY FIGHTING AROUND PRESIDENT MASIE'S HOME VILLAGE IN THE PROVINCE OF RIO MUNI, BUT WE ARE UNABLE TO VERIFY THESE REPORTS. I WANT TO REMIND YOU THAT WE HAVE NO DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN THAT COUNTRY.

IT SEEMS THAT CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRY ARE STILL IN FLUX. AS BEST WE CAN -- WHICH IS RATHER LIMITED -- WE ARE TRYING TO MONITOR EVENTS THERE CLOSELY TO FIND OUT WHAT IS GOING ON AND WHAT THE PROPER COURSE FOR US TO TAKE IS. COOPER

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